

Honorable Thomas S. Zilly

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

F.L.B., a minor, by and through his Next Friend,  
Casey Trupin; et al.,

Plaintiffs-Petitioners,

v.

Loretta E. LYNCH, Attorney General, United  
States; et al.,

Defendants-Respondents.

Case No. 2:14-cv-01026-TSZ

PLAINTIFFS' SUPPLEMENTAL  
RESPONSE IN SUPPORT OF 4TH  
MOTION FOR CLASS  
CERTIFICATION

## INTRODUCTION

Defendants' supplemental brief offers virtually no engagement with the Court's order certifying the Tentative Class and Subclasses. Instead, Defendants rehash a series of arguments that this Court has previously rejected, including several contentions put to rest over a year ago. Similarly, Defendants fail even to cite this Court's order denying their motion to dismiss, much less address the effect of that order on their attempts to resuscitate already-settled issues.

While Defendants' arguments may have some bearing on the due process analysis this Court will ultimately have to conduct, this Court has already addressed that possibility by tentatively certifying several Subclasses specifically designed to capture those distinctions. Further line-drawing is therefore unnecessary. *See infra* Section I.A; C; D.

Defendants do advance the ball in one noteworthy respect. Like Plaintiffs, Defendants contend that the line between inadmissible and deportable children has no legal relevance. Thus, the parties appear to agree that there is no reason to certify Subclasses 2a and 2b. This Court has already drawn a line based on the due process protections applicable to two groups of children by limiting this case to those who are appearing before an Immigration Judge ("IJ") for full removal proceedings, while expressly excluding those subject to certain expedited processes. Therefore, there is no need for Subclasses 2a and 2b. *See infra* Section I.B.

Defendants also recycle their commonality arguments as attacks on the adequacy of the Named Plaintiffs, but those arguments fare no better than they did before. *See infra* Section II. Similarly, their arguments against notice entirely miss the mark, as they ignore Ninth Circuit authority permitting notice where needed to allow class members to protect their rights.

## ARGUMENT

### **I. Defendants' Already-Rejected Arguments Do not Undermine Commonality.**

Defendants attack the commonality of the Court's Tentative Class and Subclasses by recycling a string of arguments that the Court has already rejected (sometimes on multiple occasions).

1        A. Children who “remain at the border.” Defendants assert again that “[a]liens  
2 apprehended at the border” lack any constitutional due process rights in their removal  
3 proceedings, and that their claims are therefore not common with those of other class members.  
4 Dkt. 275 at 3-5. The parties *just finished* litigating this very issue, Dkts. 229, 239, 240, after  
5 which this Court determined that there is “no basis for dismissing plaintiffs’ right-to-counsel  
6 claim for lack of cognizability,” and found that all children in this case “[c]learly” have  
7 procedural due process rights in their immigration proceedings. Dkt. 264 at 13. Defendants also  
8 filed a motion to reconsider on the issue, which this Court also rejected. Dkt. 280; *see also* Dkt.  
9 114 at 29 (finding that Defendants’ proposed distinctions were obsolete “in light of IIRIRA’s  
10 merger of matters involving inadmissible and deportable aliens into one proceeding known as  
11 ‘removal’”).

12        The Court correctly rejected Defendants’ claims. On Defendants’ view of the law,  
13 because the Due Process Clause provides no backstop for children who are deemed “arriving,”  
14 Congress could simply take away all procedural protections for children in immigration  
15 proceedings. Congress could stop providing interpreters for “arriving” children as a cost-saving  
16 measure, or allow IJs to decide relief applications by coin flip just to save time. A ruling  
17 permitting such conduct would offend the most basic notions of due process for children who  
18 present themselves at ports of entry. This would only “invite [children] to cross the border  
19 under cover of darkness.” Dkt. 280 at 2. Surely this cannot be the law. *See* Dkt. 239 at 6 (citing  
20 *Kwai Fun Wong v. United States*, 373 F.3d 952, 973-74 (9th Cir. 2004) (noting that to “vitiate[  
21 such] perverse incentives,” Fifth Amendment’s safeguards should extend to noncitizens  
22 apprehended at a port of entry)).<sup>1</sup>

23        <sup>1</sup> Many of the cases Defendants cite on this point were addressed in this Court’s recent orders. *See* Dkt. 264 at 8-16  
24 & nn.6-11. Their new authorities add nothing to their position. Defendants now cite *Arango Marquez v. INS*, 346  
25 F.3d 892, 895 (9th Cir. 2003), but it is simply another detention case that adds nothing to *Barrera-Echevarria v.*  
26 *Rison*, 44 F.3d 1141 (9th Cir. 1995), which Defendants have already cited. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 275 at 4; Dkt. 240 at 3  
n.2. Similarly, *Gisbert v. U.S. Att’y Gen.*, 988 F.2d 1437, 1440 (5th Cir. 1993), *amended in part*, 997 F.2d 1122,  
*Bertrand v. Sava*, 684 F.2d 204, 220 (2d Cir. 1982), and *Garcia-Mir v. Smith*, 766 F.2d 1478, 1483-84 (11th Cir.  
1985) are analogues to *Barrera* in other circuits, and addressed issues far afield from this case. Finally, *Am.*

1        B. Children charged as “inadmissible” vs. “deportable”: Defendants’ brief makes clear  
2 that neither side sees a legal rationale for drawing lines based on whether the child is charged  
3 as inadmissible or deportable, as that distinction is irrelevant to the due process analysis. Both  
4 sides appear to agree that no Subclasses need be certified on that basis.<sup>2</sup> Dkts. 271 at 5, 7; Dkt.  
5 275 at 3. As a result, Plaintiffs believe this Court need not certify Subclasses 2a and 2b at all.

6        C. Children of differing ages. Defendants’ assertion that “there is no uniform right to  
7 counsel for all children under the age of eighteen,” Dkt. 275 at 6, bears little further discussion,  
8 because the parties already briefed this issue exhaustively in response to this Court’s pre-  
9 hearing class proposal, *see* Dkts. 248, 253-54. In that briefing, Plaintiffs set forth the many  
10 reasons why “children under 18 share a common characteristic defined by their lack of capacity  
11 to represent themselves.” Dkt. 253 at 3. Those reasons include that the immigration laws  
12 *already* draw age-based lines at 18 in various different provisions (including the TVPRA, on  
13 which Defendants have repeatedly relied, *see, e.g.*, Dkt. 238 at 9-10), that Plaintiffs’  
14 psychological expert supports that line, and that state laws from a variety of contexts reinforce  
15 that children under 18 deserve special procedural protections, particularly when litigating  
16 against trained government prosecutors. Dkt. 253 at 2-8.

17        Critically, Defendants have never identified any system that pits a child against a  
18 government-funded attorney without also providing the child with counsel. *Id.* at 6. The age  
19 line that this Court has drawn in the Tentative Class therefore has ample support. As a fallback,  
20 Defendants propose that this Court certify a class with a “substantially lower age cut-off” than  
21 18, Dkt. 275 at 6 n.2, and suggest that there are “substantial variations in intelligence and

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22  
23 *Immigr’n Lawyers Ass’n v. Reno*, 18 F. Supp. 2d 38, 58-59 (D.D.C. 1998), involved expedited removal, a context  
the Court has now explicitly distinguished. Dkt. 264 at 13 n.10; Dkt. 266 at 1 & n.1.

24 <sup>2</sup> Defendants’ concession on this point is important, as they have previously argued that *Mathews v. Eldridge* does  
not apply to “aliens who haven’t been admitted into the United States” and who are “charged as inadmissible.”  
25 Sept 3, 2014, Hearing Transcript at 74:23-75:6, 75:20-77:15; *see also* Dkt. 52 at 12-13 (contending that “aliens  
who have entered or *have been admitted* to the United States” have due process rights, whereas others do not)  
26 (emphasis added). This Court has rightly rejected that position as contrary to over a century of immigration law.  
Defendants now appear to agree, at least for purposes of the relevance of the charge in removal proceedings.

1 experience of individuals between the ages of 14 and 18.” *Id.* at 6. Defendants point to no  
2 evidence to support that claim – indeed, their own expert does *not* draw that line. But to the  
3 extent that younger children may have claims that differ from those of older children, this Court  
4 has anticipated that possibility by creating Tentative Subclass 1, which is limited to children  
5 under 14. Dkt. 266 at 2. Nothing more is required to satisfy commonality as to age.

6 D. Ripeness. Defendants also argue that many current Class members do not belong in  
7 the Class because they are “not in any danger of erroneous deprivation.” Dkt. 275 at 6-7. This  
8 is simply a new gloss on the “ripeness” argument that this Court rejected over a year ago. *See*  
9 Dkt. 114 at 7-9. It fails now for the same reasons it failed then. The Ninth Circuit, and district  
10 courts therein, have repeatedly approved classes of individuals in immigration proceedings who  
11 face some risk of harm, even if that harm is not yet realized. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 85 at 3-4 (citing,  
12 *inter alia*, *Walters v. Reno*, 145 F.3d 1032, 1036 (9th Cir. 1998) (affirming certification of class  
13 of noncitizens “who have or will become subject to a final order” under certain document fraud  
14 procedures as well as judgment in favor of their due process challenge)); *Gorbach v. Reno*, 181  
15 F.R.D. 642, 648 (W.D. Wash. 1998) (rejecting Government’s contention that plaintiffs’ claims  
16 were unripe until final order of denaturalization was entered, “because [plaintiffs] are faced  
17 with an imminent threat of undergoing an allegedly unlawful procedure to revoke their  
18 citizenship”); *Franco-Gonzales v. Napolitano*, No. 10-cv-02211, 2011 WL 11705815 (C.D.  
19 Cal. Nov. 21, 2011) (certifying class of immigrant detainees with mental disabilities in removal  
20 proceedings). *See also Barahona-Gomez v. Reno*, 167 F.3d 1228, 1233 (9th Cir. 1999) (class  
21 consisting of noncitizens “who have had favorable administrative determinations . . . but the  
22 final adjudication has not yet occurred”). The Ninth Circuit has also stated numerous times that  
23 a plaintiff “need not wait” until a threatened injury has occurred before seeking redress;  
24 imminent injury is enough. Dkt. 85 at 4; *see also Melendres v. Arpaio*, 695 F.3d 990, 998 (9th  
25 Cir. 2012) (finding standing where it was “sufficiently likely” that plaintiffs would be harmed);  
26 *Chang v. United States*, 327 F.3d 911, 921 (9th Cir. 2003) (“This court does not require

1 Damocles’s sword to fall before we recognize the realistic danger of sustaining a direct  
2 injury.”).

3 Defendants do not improve their argument by describing the categories of children who  
4 are “not in danger.” The first category, children who will receive relief from removal, Dkt. 275  
5 at 6, need not be excluded because the speculative possibility that they will eventually win their  
6 cases does not erase their risk of harm now. This is no doubt why courts (including the Ninth  
7 Circuit) have repeatedly approved of classes composed of individuals awaiting a final decision  
8 in removal proceedings, as the cases cited above make clear. The second, children who will  
9 find pro bono counsel, Dkt. 275 at 6, would fall out of the class once their attorneys entered  
10 appearances in their removal proceedings, so they are already excluded.

11 The third category – pro se children as to whom “the government has elected not to  
12 move forward with proceedings until they find counsel,” Dkt. 275 at 7 – does not exist.  
13 Defendants have never guaranteed a child Plaintiff or any other member of the Class that the  
14 child’s proceedings would not move forward until she secures counsel. Plaintiffs sought that  
15 relief in the preliminary injunction, but Defendants resisted it, and since then hundreds of  
16 children have received removal or voluntary departure orders, notwithstanding their lack of  
17 legal representation. *See* Dkt. 210 at 6 & n.2; Dkt. 212, Ex. 3 at 17-18. Indeed, Defendants have  
18 refused to “elect not to move forward” even with respect to Plaintiff F.L.B., despite Plaintiffs’  
19 offer to stipulate to Defendants’ extension request if Defendants ensured that F.L.B. would not  
20 suffer harm in the interim. Dkt. 284 at 5-6.

21 Insofar as this third category of children refers to those pro se children to whom IJs  
22 grant continuances to find lawyers, Plaintiffs have put forth overwhelming evidence showing  
23 that children can suffer myriad harms even at the early stages of a proceeding, and, of course,  
24 several thousand of them have not received continuances, just since this case began. *See, e.g.,*  
25 Dkt. 212-1, Ex. 2, ¶¶ 19-27 (explaining that “[u]nrepresented children are rarely, if ever,  
26 prepared or able to meaningfully” make important decisions required at initial immigration

1 hearings); Dkt. 142 at 3-7 (describing thousands of unrepresented children that had been  
2 ordered removed in the first 10 months of this litigation). Again, Plaintiff F.L.B. is illustrative,  
3 as he was forced to plead to the allegations without a lawyer, and will apparently have to move  
4 forward unrepresented absent this Court's intervention. *See* Dkt. 157, ¶¶4-14. While a legal rule  
5 requiring continuances could provide certain children a measure of interim relief, absent such a  
6 rule, this Court has already recognized that even those children who "face[] the remote  
7 possibility of removal" retain live claims for relief. Dkt. 174 at 6.

8 E. The "totality of factors." Defendants' final argument as to commonality is that "the  
9 totality of factors" must be weighed together in order to address a child's due process claim,  
10 which supposedly renders classwide resolution impossible. Because each child's facts are  
11 different, Defendants contend, each child's constitutional claim must be resolved on an  
12 individual basis. Dkt. 275 at 7. Apart from the fact that the Court already rejected this argument  
13 by tentatively certifying the Class and Subclasses, there are three serious problems with it.

14 *First*, Defendants cannot reconcile this argument with the various categorical rules  
15 utilized in the immigration context under current law, *see* Dkt. 253 at 3, and the various  
16 categorical counsel rules at the state level that Plaintiffs have cited previously. Dkt. 253 at 5-8.

17 *Second*, wholly apart from the merits, the Ninth Circuit has repeatedly explained in the  
18 class certification context that commonality under Rule 23(a) does not require that each class  
19 member's facts be *identical*. To the contrary, it has emphasized that Rule 23 does *not* require  
20 that "[a]ll questions of fact and law . . . be common to satisfy the rule." . . . Nor does  
21 'common' as used in Rule 23(a)(1) mean 'complete congruence.'" *Rodriguez v. Hayes*, 591  
22 F.3d 1105, 1122 (9th Cir. 2010) (citations omitted); *see also Parsons v. Ryan*, 754 F.3d 657,  
23 686 (9th Cir. 2014) (explaining Plaintiffs claims must be typical of class, not . . . identically  
24 positioned to each other or to every class member"); *Walters*, 145 F.3d at 1046 (noting that  
25 differences within class members' individual immigration cases "are simply insufficient to  
26 defeat the propriety of class certification"). The classes certified in those cases all contained

1 differences at least as significant, if not more so, than those in the proposed Class here. *See*  
2 Dkt. 241 at 8-9; Dkt. 230 at 10.

3 *Third*, to the extent that differences within the Tentative Class may affect the merits of  
4 Plaintiffs' claims, this Court has addressed that concern by limiting the Main Class to those  
5 potentially eligible for relief, and by tentatively certifying several Subclasses to account for all  
6 other potentially-relevant nuances. Dkt. 266 at 2. Defendants' conclusory claim that certain  
7 factors may "interact to change the *Mathews* analysis," Dkt. 275 at 7, presumes that they are  
8 right on the merits, even though they lost the bases for that argument on their motion to  
9 dismiss. Simply put, Defendants have not identified any ways in which the Court has failed to  
10 take these potential interactions into account through its subclassing proposal.

11 **II. Defendants' Recycled Adequacy and Typicality Arguments do not Justify**  
12 **Rejecting the Tentative Class and Subclasses.**

13 Defendants' attacks on the adequacy and typicality of the Named Plaintiffs are similarly  
14 repetitive and unpersuasive. Plaintiffs have identified Named Plaintiffs who can serve as  
15 adequate and typical representatives of the Tentative Class and Subclasses 1, 2a, 3, and 4. Dkt.  
16 271 at 3, 5-8. The only exception is Subclass 2b, but Plaintiffs have already sought discovery  
17 seeking to identify such a child. And in any event, the parties apparently agree that neither  
18 Subclass 2a nor Subclass 2b need be certified. *See supra*, Section I.B.

19 Defendants nonetheless claim that *no* Plaintiff could be typical of the Main Class,  
20 suggesting that a representative must have the *exact same* demographic characteristics as all  
21 other class members. *See* Dkt. 275 at 8. Representative Plaintiffs include children in each  
22 category Defendants highlight,<sup>3</sup> but under Defendants' theory that is insufficient: apparently no  
23 child could *ever* represent the Tentative Class because no representative will ever be the same

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24 <sup>3</sup> Plaintiffs M.R.J. is 2 years old, Plaintiff F.L.B. is now 17 years old, and there are seven other Plaintiffs in a range  
25 of ages in between. *See also* Dkt. 271 at 5 (listing other Plaintiff representatives under 14 years old). Plaintiffs  
26 A.F.M.J., L.J.M., and M.R.J. are "accompanied" in that they are in proceedings with a parent, while Plaintiffs  
F.L.B. and E.G.C. are living without a parent or legal guardian. *Id.* at 7, 8. Other Plaintiffs, including A.E.G.E. and  
K.N.S.M., live with a parent.



1 age as *all* other class members.

2 Unsurprisingly, courts have rejected this argument, repeatedly certifying classes of  
3 children regardless of the particular age of any given child. *See, e.g., Perez-Funez v. District*  
4 *Director, INS*, 611 F. Supp. 990, 994, 997-8 (C.D. Cal. 1984) (finding plaintiffs typical and  
5 adequate representatives for class of individuals “who claim to be under eighteen years of  
6 age”); *Doe v. Los Angeles Unified Sch. Dist.*, 48 F. Supp. 2d 1233, 1235, 1245-46 (C.D. Cal.  
7 1999) (same, for class of “public school children”).

8 Rather than focusing on irrelevant factual distinctions, courts have focused on the fact  
9 that plaintiffs all share a common and typical injury: here, that as a result of the Government’s  
10 failure to provide legal representation to children, they are all deprived of full and fair hearings  
11 to determine whether they may remain in this country. *See also supra* Section I.C; *Rodriguez*,  
12 591 F.3d at 1124 (“The particular characteristics of the Petitioner or any individual detainee  
13 will not impact the resolution of th[e] general statutory question and, therefore, cannot render  
14 Petitioner’s claim atypical.”); *Walters*, 145 F.3d at 1046 (rejecting the Government’s attempt to  
15 “erroneously emphasize factual differences” while challenging class representatives’ adequacy,  
16 and explaining that “differences ha[d] no bearing on the class representatives’ abilities to  
17 pursue the class claims vigorously and represent the interests of the absentee class members”).

18 With respect to Subclass 1, Defendants claim that even the Named Plaintiffs who are  
19 younger than 14 years old could not be typical or adequate representatives unless they represent  
20 each possible “permutation[] of dispositive characteristics” envisioned by Defendants. Dkt. 275  
21 at 9. But this argument is foreclosed by controlling Ninth Circuit law, which provides the  
22 representatives’ claims need only be “‘typical’ of the class, not . . . identically positioned to  
23 each other or to every class member.” *Parsons*, 754 F.3d at 686; *see also Smith v. Univ. of*  
24 *Wash. Law Sch.*, 2 F. Supp. 2d 1324, 1342 (W.D. Wash. 1998) (“When it is alleged that the  
25 same unlawful conduct was directed at . . . both the named plaintiff and the class . . . , the  
26 typicality requirement is usually satisfied, *irrespective of varying fact patterns which underlie*

1 *individual claims.”*) (emphasis added).

2       Moreover, this Court has already made clear that the differences among members of  
3 Subclass 1 that Defendants point to – such as the presence of family members in the United  
4 States or whether the child has “entered” the United States – are not relevant, *see* Dkt. 264 at 8-  
5 19. But even if these distinctions *were* relevant, Subclass 1 includes suitable representatives for  
6 the permutations that Defendants describe. E.G.C. is a child without any parents in the United  
7 States, while K.N.S.M. and A.E.G.E. live with their parents but are in proceedings on their  
8 own, and A.F.M.J., L.J.M. and M.R.J. are in proceedings with a parent. Similarly, K.N.S.M.  
9 entered the United States without inspection, while A.E.G.E., E.G.C., A.F.M.J., L.M.J. and  
10 M.R.J. are deemed arriving.

11       Defendants’ remaining criticisms of the adequacy of the representatives were addressed  
12 in Plaintiffs prior supplemental brief. *See* Dkt. 271. There, Plaintiffs “sorted” individuals by  
13 admission status and charge under Subclasses 2a and 2b, *see* Dkt. 271 at 6-7, and the parties  
14 agree that all Named Plaintiffs fall within Subclass 2a. *Id.*; *see also* Dkt. 275 at 9.

15       Similarly, Plaintiffs have identified multiple representatives of the “unaccompanied”  
16 Subclass 3. Dkt. 271 at 7-8. Defendants incorrectly claim that there are no representatives of  
17 this Subclass, because all Plaintiffs “reside with family in the United States who can assist  
18 them” Dkt. 275 at 9.<sup>4</sup> This is doubly wrong. Defendants’ argument ignores the Government’s  
19 own view of who qualifies as an “unaccompanied alien child” pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2).  
20 Dkt. 266 at 2. Moreover, it is factually incorrect because Plaintiff E.G.C. is not living with a  
21 parent, and F.L.B. is not living with *any* family. They would therefore be adequate  
22 representatives even under Defendants’ cramped reading of Subclass 3. Dkt. 271 at 8.

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23 <sup>4</sup> Contrary to Defendants’ assertion, Dkt. 275 at 9, that a family member can respond to the IJ’s questions does not  
24 demonstrate that the child received a full and fair hearing. Rather, the child respondents *themselves* in removal  
25 proceedings must have the capacity to identify forms of relief, marshal evidence, present arguments, cross-  
26 examine witnesses, and counter the prosecution’s adversarial arguments. This Court has already rejected  
Defendants’ arguments that a parent, even in consolidated proceedings, may serve as a “proper ‘representative.’”  
Dkt. 264 at 16-19. It follows that a parent, grandmother, or school teacher who is *not* in consolidated removal  
proceedings is even less able fill that role. *Id.*

1 For these reasons, the Plaintiffs are typical and adequate representatives of the Main  
2 Class and Subclasses 1, 2a, 3, and 4.

3 **III. Plaintiffs' Proposed Notice Procedures are Critical to Protecting the Class**  
4 **Members' Rights, and Would not Unduly Burden Defendants.**

5 Defendants wrongly contend that notice is unnecessary because it is not “necessary to  
6 provide Class members an opportunity to signify whether representation by named plaintiffs is  
7 fair and adequate or to intervene to present additional claims or to otherwise come into the  
8 action.” Dkt. 275 at 10 (quoting *Elliot v. Weisenberger*, 564 F.2d 1219, 1229 (9th Cir. 1977),  
9 *rev'd in part on other grounds by Califano v. Yamasaki*, 442 U.S. 682 (1979)). *Elliot* did not  
10 purport to provide an exhaustive list of conditions for when notice is appropriate, and  
11 Defendants ignore a separate critical purpose found in Rule 23 itself, which provides that  
12 “[n]otice is available fundamentally for the *protection of members of the class* or otherwise for  
13 the fair conduct of the action.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 cmt. subd. (d)(2) (citations and internal  
14 quotation marks omitted) (emphasis added).

15 In a case postdating *Elliot*, the Ninth Circuit approved the provision of notice to  
16 noncitizen class members who faced the potential harm of unlawful deportation – precisely  
17 what is at stake here. *See Barahona-Gomez v. Reno*, 167 F.3d 1228, 1236 (9th Cir. 2000)  
18 (requiring Government to provide classwide notice in order to “prevent the irreparable harm of  
19 an erroneous deportation”). Although notice can also be “designed to permit each member of  
20 the class to determine whether he wishes to be individually represented for the protection of his  
21 interests,” “the power granted under Rule 23 is broad enough to permit the Court to take other  
22 action to protect the class, particularly where . . . failure to act prior to the resolution of the  
23 entire dispute may irreparably harm . . . members of the class.” *Knight v. Bd. of Ed. of City of*  
24 *New York*, 48 F.R.D. 108, 112-13 (E.D.N.Y. 1969) (holding notice required in a 23(b)(2) action  
25 implicating the due process interests of juveniles).

26 Here, unlike in *Elliot* (which involved a purely monetary deprivation), each of the child

1 Class members faces potentially irrevocable harm in the form of unlawful removal to countries  
2 where they face grave risks. Under Rule 23's text and *Barahona-Gomez*, individual notice is  
3 plainly necessary to avert the potentially irreparable harm that the child Class members would  
4 otherwise face. Also, Defendants cannot show that individualized notice would be "unduly  
5 burdensome," Dkt. 275 at 12, particularly in light of the modest and simple notice procedures  
6 that Plaintiffs have proposed. Dkt. 271 at 11-12. Because IJs regularly encounter Class  
7 members, it would be a simple matter for them to give oral and written notice of Class  
8 membership, and to hand out short letters notifying the Class of how to obtain more  
9 information about this case. *See Barahona-Gomez*, 167 F.3d at 1237 ("no real burden" to  
10 government where notification occurs in normal course of activity). It would be similarly  
11 straightforward for Defendants to notify Plaintiffs each time a class member is ordered  
12 deported, particularly given that IJs are apparently required to record each time this occurs.<sup>5</sup> *Cf.*  
13 *Barnes v. United States*, 72 Fed. Cl. 6, 9 (2006) (directing Government to identify class  
14 members because they were in "sole possession of the relevant . . . records").

15 Defendants' alternative proposal – that children be provided notice via a written  
16 announcement posted in immigration courts throughout the Ninth Circuit – is insufficient to  
17 vindicate the important rights at stake in this case. This would result in haphazard notice,  
18 reaching only the few who have the education, capacity, and fortune to approach and read a  
19 piece of paper on a wall in the courthouse.

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21 <sup>5</sup> Defendants argue that the class definition "should include only individuals in removal proceedings after the date  
22 of the class certification order." Dkt. 275 at 11 n.4. This cannot be reconciled with the history of this litigation, as  
23 Plaintiffs put Defendants on notice nearly two years ago that they would seek relief for all individuals in  
24 proceedings as of the date this case was filed. *See* Dkt. 2, Dkt. 92 at 2 (explaining that the question of "whether  
25 children have a right to reopen their removal cases because they were unrepresented" "ha[s] been part of the case  
26 since its inception"). In addition, this Court's decisions not to dismiss the claims of J.E.V.G. and M.A.M. on  
mootness grounds after those Plaintiffs had turned 18 years old and/or obtained legal representation presume that  
relief can be granted to children even after they have fallen out of the class. *See* Dkt. 264 at 4-5; Dkt. 174 at 5-6.  
Even if the Court is ultimately not inclined to appoint them counsel, these children should still be notified of the  
pending litigation, so that, at a minimum, they can seek reconsideration of removal orders issued since July 9,  
2014 on this basis. Defendants should therefore be ordered to provide notice to children ordered removed if they  
were in proceedings at any point on or after July 9, 2014.

1 Defendants next speculate that individually notifying Class members could “paralyze  
2 swaths of the immigration dockets,” by, for example, encouraging children to “move for  
3 continuances” while awaiting the outcome of this litigation. Dkt. 275 at 12. That individual  
4 notification could prompt children to take steps to protect their due process rights is an  
5 argument in *favor* of notice, not against it. *Cf. Walters v. Reno*, 145 F.3d 1032, 1047, 1050 (9th  
6 Cir. 1998) (upholding order “requir[ing] the INS to implement a thorough notice and publicity  
7 campaign” directed at potential class members in deportation proceedings, even though this  
8 would undermine efficiency of immigration court proceedings).<sup>6</sup>

9 The Court should therefore order Defendants to provide individualized notice to all  
10 Class members.

## 11 CONCLUSION

12 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should certify the Tentative Class and Subclasses,  
13 with the exceptions of Subclasses 2a and 2b, and with the modifications Plaintiffs proposed in  
14 Dkt. 271. The Court should also direct Defendants to provide notice to the Class as Plaintiffs  
15 set forth in Dkt. 271.

16 DATED this 20th day of May, 2016.

17  
18 ACLU IMMIGRANTS’ RIGHTS PROJECT  
ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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23  
24  
25 <sup>6</sup> *Royster v. McGinnis*, 332 F. Supp. 973, 981 (S.D.N.Y. 1971), and *Johnson v. City of Baton Rouge, La.*, 50  
26 F.R.D. 295, 302 (E.D. La. 1970), are readily distinguishable, because neither involved the type of *irreparable*  
harm present in this case.

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1 CERTIFICATE OF ECF FILING AND SERVICE

2 I certify that on May 20, 2016, I arranged for electronic filing of the foregoing  
3 document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification  
4 of such filing to all parties of record:

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